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throw its head this way and that as if in doubt about something. He slowly backed out of the cave and took to his heels, with the result related. The Governor smiled and pointed to the spots on his garments. There were no more attempts at apotheosis.

EXPEDITION TO HUDSON BAY AND NORTHWARD.

The preliminary report of Dr. A. P. Low, of the Canadian Geological Survey, on the expedition to Hudson Bay and northward in 1903-04, which he commanded, is printed in the annual *Report* of the Department of Marine and Fisheries for 1904. It contains some new facts of interest relating to Hudson Bay, on the western coast of which the party spent the winter.

The *Neptune*, the largest and best of the sealing steamers of the Newfoundland fleet, was chartered for the voyage, fitted out at Halifax, and left that port for the North on August 23, 1903, with officers, crew, and passengers, numbering in all 42 persons. An Eskimo interpreter was picked up at Port Burwell on the Labrador coast, and the vessel crossed Hudson Strait to Cumberland Gulf to visit the settlement of Blacklead, a whaling station on the island of that name near the west side of the Gulf. The Report says:

The settlement, consisting of some dozen small buildings, is situated on a high, barren rocky island, about five miles from the mainland (of Baffin Land). There is a fairly safe anchorage protected by reefs, in a small bay, at the southeast end. The settlement consists of a small whaling and trading post, belonging to Noble Bros., of Dundee, Scotland; and is the headquarters of the Church Mission Society on Cumberland Gulf.

The whale fishery is carried on at Cumberland Gulf in whale boats manned by Eskimos, who are employed by the whalers for that purpose, at Blacklead and Kikkerton stations. Each boat has a crew of five natives. The fishery starts about the 1st of October, and continues until the Gulf freezes solid—generally in December. It is renewed again as soon as the ice begins to move; which is usually in February, or the beginning of March. The fishery is not very profitable, as whales are not taken every year. Happily for the natives, two whales were captured in the spring of 1903; and later 3,000 seals were killed; this has put new life into the trade, and has prevented the abandonment of the station, which had been seriously contemplated. There are about 450 persons, of Eskimo blood, living about Cumberland Gulf; and all are more or less dependent on the whaling stations for a living; so, were the stations abandoned, there would be great hardships among them; and a number would probably perish if outside help were not afforded.

All the able-bodied males were away hunting caribou on the mainland of Baffin Land. They go in their boats far inland to the neighbourhood of Nettilling Lake, where the deer are very numerous. A visit was also made to Kikkerton, the other whaling station in the Gulf. It is about 10 miles from the north shore of the Gulf, the cluster of small buildings nestled at the foot of a rocky hill on an island. Two rivers on the north side of the Gulf and one at its

head are well stocked with Arctic salmon, and a successful fishery could be developed there.

Returning south, the *Neptune* entered Hudson Strait and followed the north shore. Passing Saddleback Islands, they were found to be double the number marked on the chart. The south-east winds that had prevailed all summer had driven icebergs into the Strait, and over fifty were counted along the north shore.

Nearing Hudson Bay the *Neptune* crossed to the south side of the Strait and near the west end of Charles Island a great many walrus were observed. The walrus were hunted to obtain a supply of dog food, and it proved very exciting sport. Seven were captured, and two polar bears were killed.

The *Neptune* crossed Hudson Bay to the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet, where eight tents of Eskimos were found. Another encampment was found about 120 miles up Chesterfield Inlet, which was ascended in a launch. The men were away hunting, but over 70 deer skins and 400 pounds of meat were purchased from the women. There had been a great slaughter of deer at this camp in August and hundreds of half cleaned skeletons were lying about. At this point the launch turned back to Hudson Bay. The *Neptune* in the voyage to Chesterfield Inlet grounded twice out of sight of land to the north of the Inlet, and several times got into very shallow water. This shows the danger of this uncharted coast.

The party wintered at Cape Fullerton on the west side of Hudson Bay, northeast of Chesterfield Inlet. The harbour froze over on October 16. The short days of winter months passed quickly. Sufficient work was found to keep all busy during the daylight, and the monotony of the long evenings was relieved by games, readings, a weekly lecture on Wednesday, and a dance on Thursday. Another weekly dance was given on board the American whaler *Era*, which was wintering in the neighbourhood.

Early in April Mr. Caldwell explored the country between Cape Fullerton and Wager Inlet to the northeast, and made an excellent sketch of the shore-line. He was absent nearly two months. On June 15, Dr. Low and Dr. Borden, with two of the crew and two natives, left the ship with two whaleboats for a trip to Southampton Island, in the north, the largest island of Hudson Bay. It is observed that Dr. Low does not call it North Southampton Island, as has heretofore been done on many charts to distinguish it from South Southampton Island, separated from the larger island by Fisher Strait. As the name "Coats" is now commonly applied to the smaller of these islands, the Canadians no longer use the

prefix "North" with the larger island. About fifty miles of the western coast-line of Southampton Island were surveyed, and formal possession was taken of it by hoisting the Dominion flag.

On July 18, 1904, the *Neptune* broke out of the harbour ice and started for Hudson Strait. East of Coats Island much heavy ice in large sheets was encountered, and the ship was forced far to the southward. When she finally got into Hudson Strait it appeared blocked with ice, and the vessel was beset for nearly two days, drifting to the eastward. She was finally able to force her way into open water. No serious encounter with the pack was met later, and on July 25th the party reached the *Erik* at Port Burwell with supplies from Halifax.

The coal and provisions were taken on board, and on August 2 the *Neptune* started on her northern cruise to Cape Sabine, at Smith Sound. The passage of Melville Bay was made in very dirty weather, with fog and heavy rain, but fortunately little ice until within a few miles of Cape York. The progress to the north was not impeded, however, and on August 10 the vessel entered Etah Bay, looking for the Arctic highlanders, but none were there. The party crossed to Cape Sabine, passing very heavy Arctic ice, which had come down the Smith Sound channels, and took formal possession of Ellesmere Island and adjacent islands for the Dominion in the name of the King.

No time was then lost in getting southward away from the heavy ice that was pouring steadily past Cape Sabine. The flag was again hoisted over North Devon and North Somerset. In Ponds Inlet an encampment of the western Eskimos was found in thirteen tents, and up the Inlet the Dundee whalers *Diana* and *Eclipse* were met. Only five small Dundee whalers were at work last year. They had caught nine whales up to that time, but it was learned later that the fall fishery along the east coast of Baffin Island was entirely unsuccessful. The *Neptune* reached Port Burwell again September 4, and arrived at Halifax on October 11, after an absence of a year and fifty-one days, during which she had steamed over 10,000 miles.

The year's work included 1,175 miles of log and compass surveys of coast-line, previously unsurveyed; 91 miles of chain and micrometer surveys of the harbour and environment of Cape Fullerton; many astronomical observations for the position of Fullerton; 433 soundings through six feet of ice in the harbour and approach to Fullerton; 610 miles of geological investigation on the west coast of Hudson Bay, from the head of Chesterfield Inlet to the head of Wager Inlet; 70 miles of track survey and geological

examination on the west shore of Southampton Island, and 95 miles of boat survey (geological) of the east side of Ungava Bay; total surveys, 2,041 miles.

Large collections of rocks and fossils were made, anthropological studies were carried on, and large collections of flora and fauna were obtained. The average temperatures at the winter camp in Hudson Bay were: December, -8.1° ; January, -22.4° ; February, -27.8° ; and March, -20.6 .

THE USEFUL PLANTS OF GUAM.

The Government press has issued (Smithsonian Institution) a volume of 416 pages on this subject. It forms Volume IX of "Contributions from the United States National Herbarium," and is a notable accession to our knowledge of this little island, the result of fortunate circumstances making it possible to secure a careful botanical study of it. The author is Mr. W. E. Safford, assistant botanist in the Department of Agriculture. For several years, when a lieutenant in the U. S. Navy, he had an opportunity to study the plants of Upolu and Tutuila, of the Samoan group, and of Oahu, of the Hawaiian group. He was Assistant Governor of Guam in the year ending August, 1900, and the book is an elaboration of notes and observations made in that year, and during the earlier years of his studies among the Pacific islands.

While the title is "The Useful Plants of Guam," it includes references to every plant known to occur there, with particular attention to those which have been described as species new to science. The descriptive catalogue of plants covers 234 pages. The principal plants used for food—fibre, oil, starch, sugar, and forage in the tropical islands acquired by this country—are discussed and their common names are given, not only for Guam, but also for the Philippine Islands, Samoa, Hawaii, and Porto Rico. The methods of cultivating them are given in detail, and the preparation of their derivative products, such as arrow root, coprá, and cacao.

Mr. Safford also studied the archives of Guam, and his account of the discovery, early history, and explorations of the island, with its climate, ethnology, and economic conditions, affords the most comprehensive and authentic picture of Guam thus far published. There are 70 illustrations, including a map of Guam, and half-tone